

Washington State Board of Health Our Vision of a Healthy Washington

We envision a future in which:

Children are born healthy and wanted in a society that respects and nurtures individuals throughout life, providing each with the opportunity to develop and express her or his potential in ways that are personally satisfying and socially constructive.

The environment we share is clean, with physical, chemical, and biological hazards reduced to levels compatible with both community health and a sound economy.

Individuals have the opportunity to learn and apply health-promoting practices in family, school, and other community environments in order to care for themselves and others.

Infectious diseases are controlled, and other illnesses, both physical and mental, and injuries are minimized.

All citizens who need special support or care in order to continue to be part of a fulfilling community life receive recognition and attention.

Informed and interested citizens participate actively in formulating health policy and deciding how public and private resources will be allocated for health maintenance and improvement.

Public agencies cooperate and collaborate with each other and with private sector organizations in addressing challenges and opportunities.

Individuals and institutions have an abiding commitment to the responsible use of health and medical care services.

A flexible and creative health system respects diversity, focuses on outcomes, and responds proactively to emerging health problems. It emphasizes prevention, education, and early intervention, and makes quality, affordable care readily available and accessible to all.

**With this vision of our future, we look forward to
living in a society in which the quality of the
public's health is seen as an asset that enables us
to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century
to our maximum potential.**